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**ELK GROVE WOMAN SENTENCED TO TWO YEARS IN PRISON FOR
SMUGGLING ILLEGAL ALIENS INTO THE UNITED STATES**

SACRAMENTO – United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced that ADELA JUAREZ, 35, of Elk Grove, CA, was sentenced today by United States District Judge Frank C. Damrell, Jr. to two years in federal prison, a \$3000 fine, and a three-year term of supervised release following her prison term. The defendant pleaded guilty to three counts of transporting illegal aliens for private financial gain on June 5, 2006.

This case is the product of a joint investigation by federal agents from the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement and detectives from the Placer County Sheriff's office.

At sentencing, Judge Damrell said that the nature and circumstances surrounding the defendant's actions as well as her five prior arrests for alien smuggling warranted the two-year sentence. According to Assistant United States Attorney Michael Beckwith, who prosecuted the case, the defendant took advantage of the aliens' hesitance to contact law enforcement due to their illegal status, and attempted to extort additional money from the aliens after bringing them to the Sacramento area. When the aliens refused to pay additional money, she threatened their family members and told a local employer that they were in the country illegally.

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